BOOK REVIEWS

James O. Menzoían, MD, Book Review Section Editor

Noninvasive vascular diagnosis

Ali AbuRhama, John Bergan; London; 1999; Springer-Verlag; 488 pages.

The standard for textbooks devoted to noninvasive vascular diagnosis was established over a decade ago with Gene Bernstein's tomes that accompanied his San Diego Vascular Diagnosis Symposiums. The field of vascular diagnosis has, however, continued to move forward, and new volumes are periodically desirable. The textbook by Drs AbuRhama and Bergan is nicely organized and well illustrated, but a bit ill focused. The book begins with three overlapping chapters on vascular laboratory accreditation and training, and certification of vascular laboratory personnel. The idea is excellent, but next time, to avoid repetition, Denny Baker should write this entire section. What follows is Dr Kirk Beech's usual authoritative and entertaining discussion of ultrasound physics. While this is "physics for dummies," the dummy cannot be too dumb and can learn a great deal by careful scrutiny of this chapter.

After the above introductory sections, the four core areas of the vascular laboratory are addressed: cerebrovascular diagnosis, peripheral arterial disease, venous disease, and visceral vessels. Duplex techniques are emphasized, but plethysmography is also covered. Each of these sections begins with an "overview" of the disease process pertinent to that section. Each ends with a chapter that attempts to ascribe clinical relevance to the vascular laboratory techniques discussed. These overview and clinical relevance chapters are simplistic. They are of little use to anyone beyond the first or second year of medical school. They do, however, comprise nearly 25% of the pages devoted to these sections.

What lies in between the overviews is of variable utility. There are, however, excellent, well-referenced and authoritative discussions of transcranial Doppler sonography, carotid plaque morphology, peripheral arterial duplex, and venous imaging techniques. The information in the section on deep abdominal vessels is well presented but somewhat dated. This is an area of vascular diagnosis that has been, unfortunately, somewhat static over the last 5 years. The final primary section of the book is devoted to miscellaneous vascular diagnostic techniques. Chapters on transcutaneous oxygen measurements and three-dimensional vascular imaging are sufficiently detailed to be authoritative. Others, for example, on intervascular ultrasound, sonographic contrast agents, and Doppler flow wires serve as intriguing introductions to evolving fields. The book then concludes with a glossary where one can learn the definitions of such terms as angiography, atheroma, and circle of Willis.

This book has a little something for all interested in the vascular laboratory. If I were a physician or a vascular technologist just entering the field of vascular diagnostics, I would purchase a copy for myself. Experienced vascular technologists and physicians will find it periodically useful to fill in gaps in their knowledge but will in general be better with a good Internet provider and occasionally blowing the dust off of Dr Bernstein's final edition.

Gregory Moneta, MD

Oregon Health Sciences University
Portland, Ore

doi:10.1067/mva.2001.115410

The handbook of surgical intensive care: practices of the surgical residents at Duke University Medical Center, 5th ed

Bryan M. Clary, Carmelo A. Milano; St Louis; 2000; Mosby-Yearbook; 482 pages; $35.95.

The fifth edition of *The Handbook of Surgical Intensive Care* delivers on its implied goal: to provide rapid and reliable answers for ICU house officers at 2 AM. The new editors of this paperback text, Dr Bryan M. Clary and Dr Carmelo A. Milano, have refined and reduced ICU patient care into a concise outline form. Although written by the surgical residents and fellows at Duke University Medical Center, this book is by no means intended only for surgeons. Attending surgeons, pulmonary/critical care fellows, medical students, and critical care nurses may likewise appreciate the practical approach to the physiology and management strategies of the critically ill.

The Handbook of Surgical Intensive Care retains the usual organization pattern of other intensive care handbooks. The 24 chapters are grouped into four sections: Fundamental Principles of Surgical Intensive Care (hemodynamic monitoring, shock, acid/base and fluid/electrolyte management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and procedures); Pathophysiology (by organ system); Specialized Patient Management (trauma, transplant, cardiac and pediatric surgery, burns, and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation); and Selected Problems in Patient Management (infection/sepsis, ventilator management, nutrition, anesthesia/analgesia, and medication/drips). Various charts, drawings, tables, and graphs are included, as well as a list of selected readings to expand each topic. Each chapter has been constructed for ease and speed of reading; moreover, the text lends itself as a guide for oral presentations.

While no specific surgical techniques are discussed, I found the chapter on transplantation to be particularly concise and well written. For example, the transplantation chapter guides the reader through the process of organ donation, including the identification of candidates for organ donation and criteria for brain death. Furthermore, the stabilization of heart-beating cadavers is given attention in order to optimize organ perfusion and function. The chapter continues with transplant recipient selection and management, a brief synopsis on immunosuppression and the choice of immunosuppressive agents, and complications of transplant surgery, including organ rejection.

This reasonably priced handbook, in its fifth edition, remains a valuable reference for the physician managing the critically ill. Featuring small size and lack of weight, the text remains thorough for a handbook. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in an easy-to-read yet relatively thorough synopsis of patient care in the surgical ICU.

James D. Frizzi, MD

Boston Medical Center
Boston, Mass

doi:10.1067/mva.2001.115594

Phlebology: the guide

Albert-Adrien Ramelet, Michel Monti; 1999; Paris; Elsevier.

This new, revised, fourth English-language edition of a very popular European textbook on venous disease was written almost entirely by two eminent phlebologists from Switzerland: Dr Ramelet, a dermatologist, and Dr Monti, a cardiologist. Emphasis is placed on everyday practical management of patients who come to the office with problems of superficial venous disease. This soft cover volume is much more than a pocketbook for trainees on how to manage varicose veins, venous ulcers, or acute venous disease. It is a systematic manual with excellent chapters and numerous color illustrations on venous anatomy, histology, physiology, epidemiology, clinical presentation, and diagnostic evaluation. Phlebography is described in detail, with a lot of illustrations, and duplex scan is